

Reasons for adding a *Proviso* to the Bill for Naturalizing *David Le Grand* and others.



THE City of *London* being an Ancient City and Corporation, or body Politick, and the Great Metropolitan City of this Nation ; great care hath been taken in all Ages to preserve the same, and the Government and Magistracy thereof ; and the Ancient Revenues, Rights, and Privileges thereof ; without which the same Government and Magistracy, could not nor can be supported.

AMONG the Ancient Revenues and Hereditaments belonging to the City of *London*, there are none more Ancient and less burthensom , than the duties of Package, Scavage, Balliage, and Portage ; being small Tolls or Duties, due for Commodities imported and exported by Aliens. The Ancient Revenue arising, by which Duties hath Anciently been and still is applied to the support of the Magistracy of the said City : But there being lately an advance of the Ancient Rent payable by the Officer and Manager thereof , the same improvement hath been with great Prudence and Charity, applied to the satisfying the Debts due, and owing to the poor Orphans of the City, which is one of the things designed to be proposed, to be settled and appropriated by Act of Parliament for satisfying the Debts aforesaid.

NOW there is nothing doth, nor can tend more to the impairing and lessening these Duties than the Naturalizing of Aliens ; whereby they are exempted from payment of them, to the great detriment and damage of the said City. The said Corporation or Body Politick, being thereby deprived of their Ancient Right and Inheritance, of, in, and to the said Duties, which it's hoped the Parliament will be tender of, and the rather for that the Magistracy of the said City, will thereby not only be left destitute of a great part of the necessary support thereof, but likewise the said City will be deprived of one considerable means to satisfy their Orphans Debts. And therefore it's proposed, that in the Naturalization Bill depending, there be a *Proviso* to this Effect, viz.

PROVIDED always, and be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that nothing in this present Act contained, shall exempt or be ~~contained~~ to exempt any of the said Persons whatsoever ; who shall claim or receive any benefit by this Act, from the payment unto the City of *London* any Tolls or Duties whatsoever ; heretofore lawfully enjoyed or received by the said City.

Obj. It may be objected, that such *Proviso's* deprive the Persons Naturalized of a great part of the benefit and favor intended by such Naturalization.

Ans. Were these Duties great and considerable, this Objection might seem to have some Force but when it's considered that these Duties are very small, as a penny upon an Hundred weight of Goods or Merchandizes, or an half-penny and less on some Goods, the inconsiderableness of the Duty to any particular Person, doth invalidate the Objection, especially if it be considered, that Aliens receive many more benefits and favours in their being naturalized. As,

1. They are made capable of settling among us, and purchasing Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments to them and their Heirs for ever ; and their Issue made capable of Inheriting the same.

2. They are exempted from payment of the Customs payable to their Majesties by Aliens, and pay no more than natural born Subjects of this Kingdom.

3. They are made capable of being made Freemen in the City of *London*, and other Corporations ; and thereby to exercise any Trades in the same, and to take Apprentices, which Aliens cannot do according to Stat.

14. H. 8. cap. 2.

4. They are made capable of holding Houses in such Corporations and elsewhere, which otherwise they being Aliens Artificers are incapable to do by virtue of the Statute of 32. Hen. 8. cap. 16. *Side 13-76*